

What is claimed is:

1. A computerized method for creating an electronic literary work on a computer system that includes a display, said computerized method comprising:
  - (a) providing an archive image set which includes a plurality of digital images;
  - (b) populating a first working area of an application program with selected digital images from the archive image set, thereby to generate a contact sheet view comprising an imported image set;
  - (c) populating a second working area of the application program with selected digital images from the imported image set, thereby establishing a working image set;
  - (d) arranging the digital images which comprise said working image set into a selected storyboard sequence;
  - (e) associating respective image data with at least some of the digital images in said working image set, thereby to define pairs of companion image items; and
  - (f) displaying the pairs of companion image items on the display according to said storyboard sequence.
2. A computerized method according to claim 1 whereby said archive image set is stored locally on the computer system.
3. A computerized method according to claim 1 whereby said archive image set is stored remotely on a remote computer system that is accessible through a suitable communications interface.
4. A computerized method according to claim 1 whereby said first and second working areas are different child windows of the application program.
5. A computerized method according to claim 1 whereby those digital images which populate both said first working area and said second working area appear in a common ordered arrangement.

6. A computerized method according to claim 1 whereby said working image set and said imported image set are the same.
7. A computerized method according to claim 1 whereby the respective image data is selected from a first group of data types consisting of text-only data, non-text data, and a mixture of text-only data and non-text data.
8. A computerized method according to claim 7 whereby said non-text data is selected from a second group of data types consisting of graphic images, photographic images and a mixture of graphic images and photographic images.
9. A computerized method according to claim 8 whereby respective image data is associated with each of the digital images in said working image set.
10. A computerized method according to claim 1 whereby the pairs of companion image items are displayed as an electronic book.
11. A computerized method according to claim 1 whereby the archive image set and the imported image set are the same.
12. A computerized method according to claim 1 comprising generating a front cover and a back cover for the electronic literary work by utilizing at least one selected digital image from said archive image set.
13. A computerized method according to claim 1 whereby the respective image data associated with each of the digital images is text-only data.
14. A computerized method according to claim 1 comprising associating a page number to each item within each of the pairs of companion image items, thereby to generate a numerical page sequence which chronologically corresponds to the selected storyboard sequence.
15. A computerized method for creating an electronic literary work, comprising:
  - (a) obtaining a plurality of digital images;

- (b) storing said digital images on a storage device as an image set;
- (c) importing the image set from the storage device into a working project area of a display device, thereby populating the working project area with said digital images;
- (d) arranging said digital images into a selected contact sheet sequence;
- (e) correlating respective image data with each of said digital images, thereby to define pairs of companion image items; and
- (f) arranging the pairs of companion image items into a selected storyboard sequence whereby the pairs of companion image items may be selectively displayed according to the selected storyboard sequence.

16. A computerized method according to claim 15 whereby said image set is stored locally on the computer system.

17. A computerized method according to claim 15 whereby said image set is stored remotely on a remote computer system that is accessible through a suitable communications interface.

18. A computerized method according to claim 15 whereby the respective image data is selected from a first group of data types consisting of text-only data, non-text data, and a mixture of text-only data and non-text data.

19. A computerized method according to claim 15 comprising associating a page number to each item within each of the pairs of companion image items, thereby to generate a numerical page sequence which chronologically corresponds to the selected storyboard sequence.

20. A computer-readable medium having executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

- (a) providing an archive image set which includes a plurality of digital images;

- (b) populating a first working area of an application program with selected digital images from the archive image set, thereby to generate a contact sheet view comprising an imported image set;
- (c) populating a second working area of the application program with selected digital images from the imported image set, thereby establishing a working image set;
- (d) arranging the digital images which comprise said working image set into a selected storyboard sequence;
- (e) associating respective image data with at least some of the digital images in said working image set, thereby to define pairs of companion image items; and
- (e) controlling an output device to display said pairs of companion image items on a display medium according to said storyboard sequence.

21. A computer-readable medium having executable instructions according to claim 20 whereby each of said first working area and said second working area is a respective child window of the application program.

22. A computer-readable medium having executable instructions according to claim 20 whereby the respective image data is selected from a first group of data types consisting of text-only data, non-text data, and a mixture of text-only data and non-text data.

23. A computer-readable medium having executable instructions according to claim 20 whereby respective image data is associated with each of the digital images in said working image set.

24. A computer-readable medium having executable instructions according to claim 20 whereby the pairs of companion image items are displayed as an electronic book.

25. A computer-readable medium having executable instructions according to claim 20 for generating a front cover and a back cover for the electronic literary work by utilizing at least one selected digital image from said archive image set.

26. A computer-readable medium having executable instructions according to claim 20 for associating a page number to each item within each of the pairs of companion image items, thereby to generate a numerical page sequence which chronologically corresponds to the selected storyboard sequence.

27. A computer-readable medium having executable instructions according to claim 20 for printing selected ones of the pairs of companion items according to a selected print sequence.

28. A system for enabling creation and viewing of an electronic literary work, said system comprising:

- (a) a composition component for creating the electronic literary work, said composition component including editing capabilities which permit user-defined image data to be respectively associated with each of a plurality a digital images, thereby to define pairs of companion image items which may be arranged according to a selected storyboard sequence;
- (b) a storage component for storing an archive set of digital images for retrieval by said composition component; and
- (c) a viewing component for enabling the electronic literary work created by said composition component to be viewed according to said storyboard sequence.

29. A system according to claim 28 wherein said composition component and said storage component reside on a common computer system.

30. A system according to claim 29 wherein said composition component and said viewing component are part of a common application program.

31. A system according to claim 28 wherein said composition component and said storage component reside on different computer systems.

32. A system according to claim 31 wherein said storage component is located on a remote computer system from said composition component, and including a suitable communications interface for accessing said storage component.

33. A system according to claim 28 wherein the user-defined image data is selected from a first group of data types consisting of text-only data, non-text data, and a mixture of text-only data and non-text data.

34. A system according to claim 33 wherein said non-text data is selected from a second group of data types consisting of graphic images, photographic images and a mixture of graphic images and photographic images.

35. A system according to claim 28 wherein said viewing component enables the electronic literary work to be displayed as an electronic book.

36. A system according to claim 28 wherein each of said composition component, said storage component and said viewing component is at a distinct, remote location from one another, and including suitable communications interfaces for enabling data transmission therebetween.

37. A system for use in creating an electronic literary work, comprising:

- (a) a storage device for storing a plurality of digital images as an archive image set;
- (b) a display device;
- (c) an output device; and
- (d) a processor programmed to:

- (i) retrieve an imported image set of digital images from said storage device;
- (ii) generate a contact sheet view from the imported image set by populating a first working area of said display device with at least some of said plurality of digital images, thereby to define a working image set;
- (iii) generate a storyboard view by arranging digital images within the working image set into a selected storyboard sequence on said display device;
- (iv) associate respective image data with at least some of the digital images in said storyboard viewing sequence, thereby to define pairs of companion image items; and
- (v) control at least one of said display device and said output device to display said pairs of companion image items to the storyboard sequence.

38. A system according to claim 37 wherein the respective image data is selected from a first group of data types consisting of text-only data, non-text data, and a mixture of text-only data and non-text data.

39. A system according to claim 38 wherein said non-text data is selected from a second group of data types consisting of graphic images, photographic images and a mixture of graphic images and photographic images.

40. A system according to claim 37 wherein said processor is programmed to display the pairs of companion image items as an electronic book.

41. A system according to claim 37 wherein said processor is programmed to associate a page number to each item within each of the pairs of companion image

items, thereby to generate a numerical page sequence which chronologically corresponds to the selected storyboard sequence.

42. A system for use in creating an electronic literary work, comprising:

- (a) storage means for storing a plurality of digital images as an archive image set;
- (b) display means;
- (c) output means; and
- (d) processing means operative to:
  - (i) retrieve an imported set of the digital images from said storage means;
  - (ii) generate a contact sheet view from imported image set by populating a first working area of said display means with at least some of said plurality of digital images, thereby to define a working image set;
  - (iii) generate a storyboard view by arranging digital images with the working image set into a selected storyboard viewing sequence on said display means;
  - (iv) associate respective image data with at least some of the digital images in said storyboard viewing sequence, thereby to define pairs of companion image items; and
  - (v) control at least one of said display means and said output means to display said pairs of companion image items to the storyboard viewing sequence.

43. An electronic literary work produced by a method comprising:

- (a) providing an archive image set which includes a plurality of digital images;

- (b) populating a first working area of an application program with selected digital images from the archive image set, thereby to generate a contact sheet view comprising an imported image set;
- (c) populating a second working area of the application program with selected digital images from the imported image set, thereby establishing a working image set;
- (d) arranging the digital images which comprise said working image set into a selected storyboard sequence;
- (e) associating respective image data with at least some of the digital images in said working image set, thereby to define pairs of companion image items; and
- (f) displaying the pairs of companion image items on the display according to said storyboard viewing sequence.